



ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE
AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.
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MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 28, 1858.

Mr. Letcher's Case.
The opinions are various in the ranks of the Democracy, as to the case of Mr. Letcher. The Richmond Enquirer says:

"While we have no misgivings for Mr. Letcher's fidelity to the South, we repeat that the Democracy having defeated Mr. Summers because in 1832 he floated with the torrent that almost swept slavery from its moorings in Virginia, it will not do to excuse and palliate the still greater offence of Mr. Letcher, in 1847."

The Valley Democrat says:

"The charge is too small to deserve a serious notice. Self-evident facts, relative to the political life of Mr. Letcher, are a sufficient refutation of such a charge. His course has always been directly counter to the abolition party and his opposition to it has always been sincere and avowed. We can ask nothing more in all conscience from Mr. Letcher. The Democratic party are well satisfied with his political faith, and all they can say about his course is, 'well done, good and faithful servant.'"

The subject is commented on, also, by many other papers—among others by the South Side Democrat, which does not think that Mr. L. ought to be condemned in a summary way; and takes the Enquirer to task for its manner of speaking of the case. In the meantime, the Richmond Whig is in high glee at the evident effect, so far, of its first gun, which it thinks is a smasher; and calls upon the Democratic leaders to bring out some other "crack nag," that it may next have the pleasure of demolishing him.

We do not know what the recent honors to Mr. Crittenden may foreshadow, or lead to, in the future, in reference to political movements—but it is certain that there are thousands of Conservative men in all sections of the country who would be glad to see him brought prominently forward as their leader in the contest which is to take place for the administration of the government after the expiration of Mr. Buchanan's term of office. It is too soon at this time, to commence that contest; nor is it certain what events the developments of the next year, may bring about—or what men may take the first places in the formation of parties in view of that contest—nor have we any disposition to precipitate a choice of candidates. Should Mr. Crittenden be called upon to assume the position to which we refer, we are quite sure that no able nor more patriotic citizen could be selected—nor one to whom the honor and interests of the whole country—irrespective of sections—could be confided by those who alone wish to preserve the Constitution, the Union of the States, and the Rights of the States.

The Baltimore Patriot has a timely article in reference to the treatment of beasts of burden in hot weather. "We beg those who are entrusted with the care and use of our draft animals, in this oppressive summer heat, to be forbearing and patient and kind towards them—to remember that they have feelings to be hurt, strength to be exhausted by overwork in the hot sun, but no freedom to rest when they are tired, and no speech to implore consideration for their weakness or their wants."

"An old Legislative Associate," now residing in Alexandria County, in a communication in the Richmond Examiner, recommends Paulus Powell, at present a representative in Congress, from the Amherst district, for the office of Governor of Virginia.

The Culpeper Observer says—"It is gratifying to us to state that not a drop of liquor could be had at any public place, in this village, on Monday last, (Court-day,) with the exception of one restaurant."

The "stress of the times" continues upon some of the Northern Manufacturing establishments. An establishment at Providence, R. I., has recently been sold at a great sacrifice.

The cruise of the Arctic, in the Gulf of Mexico, it is said, has amounted to nothing, she being a slow boat, and not fitted for rapid service.

Robert E. Poisl, of Baltimore, a student of Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport, Pa., was drowned, whilst bathing, on Monday last.

There are many who agree with the South-Side Democrat in its estimate of Thackeray's last novel, "The Virginians"—that it is a work of great merit.

The circular of Mr. W. P. Wright, for the Aia, estimated the damage to the cotton crop by the floods at 200,000 to 250,000 bales.

We observe this year an unusual number of Masonic celebrations of St. John's day.—The order is largely increasing throughout this country.

Capt. Geo. W. Sappington, of Jefferson county, Va., has been appointed by the Faculty of Hampden Sydney College, Steward of that institution.

J. F. Martin, tried in Norfolk for the murder of Thomas Burke, in May last, has been acquitted.

The number of emigrants arrived at New York this year, to June 23, is 30,450 against 81,009 to the same date in 1857.

A sale of 2,000 tons American T-rails was made last week, in New York, at \$44, half cash, half time.

Prices of Beef, Pork, Flour and Grain are all declining in the Northern markets.

The famous schooner Kesiah was sold in Petersburg, last week, for the sum of \$225.

The case of the Regina Cook, it is said, will probably cause difficulty between England and France. She belonged to Nantes, and was engaged in carrying free emigrants (so called) to the French Isle of Bourbon.—The negroes revolted near Mouri, killed the crew, and surrendered to the English steamer Ethiopia. They were taken to Monrovia, and set at liberty. Mr. Croft, the English captain, claiming salvage for the vessel. The French Captain refused to pay and called upon the French naval force to interfere; accordingly "the Chief of the Staff of the French Naval Division," declared officially in a dispatch to the President of Liberia that "the capture of the Regina Cook by the English private steamer Ethiopia has been an arbitrary, illegal and unlawful proceeding." That Capt. Simon be immediately replaced in possession of his ship, and insisting "that the murderers of the crew be arrested and delivered to the French commander of the Ronquadin." England cannot of course remain an idle looker-on at any possible aggression on Liberia, on account of the act of an English steamer.

The speeches delivered at the Welcome given in Providence, R. I., to the Masonic Knights Templars from Virginia, were, on both sides, of a patriotic character. The Governor of Rhode Island "welcomed the Virginians to the land of Roger Williams, saying that, although the geographical dimensions of the State were small, they furnished no criterion to judge of the abilities of her people to welcome their brethren from abroad. They (the Virginians) came from the land of Washington, and if no other tie could bind, they would still be welcomed by those who feel proud to honor Washington as the father of his country. (Applause.) They were all brothers in one glorious republic, and he asked the strangers present, if they carried away no other convictions, to let it be fixed indelibly upon their minds, that Rhode Island, the last to become one of the old thirteen, will be the last to allow her step to be withdrawn from the continent of our national banner. (Cheers.) In conclusion he offered as a sentiment, "Virginia! The burial place of Washington; the richest bequest our nation can give her."

At a recent meeting of the New York Historical Society, Mr. Charles H. Moore read a long paper, in which he gave a detailed biographical sketch of General Charles Lee, from the time he entered the army in England, at the age of eleven years, to his death in Philadelphia, in March 1782.—Mr. Moore produced documents in the handwriting of Gen. Lee, furnishing the most conclusive evidence of his reasonable designs. The documents were recently obtained from England, and have never appeared in print.

The public will be curious to see these "documents," and the evidence of their authenticity. In the mean time, we prefer to wait, before yielding belief to the charges of Mr. Moore.

The bids for the three New York State loans to meet bonds due on the 1st of July, were opened on Thursday at Albany. The one million five hundred loan to the sinking fund was awarded to Rufus H. King and associates at \$101.02; the temporary loan of two hundred thousand for canal purposes was awarded to two firms at \$100.85 and \$100.80; the Comptroller's loan of one hundred thousand was awarded to two banks and one banking house at \$101.26, \$103.05, and \$102.05. This shows that money is seeking safe rather than showy investments.

Should the Atlantic Telegraph be completed, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America will be brought into electric communication with each other, and a remarkable progress will have been made towards the civilized unity of the human race. From Newfoundland there is telegraphic communication to New Orleans, distant 3,710 miles, following the course of the wire, and when the Atlantic cable is laid direct communication can be obtained with Constantinople, thus uniting the four continents.

The church rates abolition bill has passed the British House of Commons by a large majority. This is one of the measures of the Radicals. The Government party gave but a silent vote against it, and Lord Stanley voted openly for it.

The vacant chair of anatomy in the medical department of Pennsylvania College, has been tendered to Dr. John H. B. McClellan, of Philadelphia.

The Grand Jury of Albany county, New York, have unanimously presented the professional jurors and loungers of the courts as a nuisance.

The Martha Washington College, instituted in Abingdon, Va., has been sold by the McCabe Lodge, I. O. O. F., to the Holston conference of the Methodist Episcopal church.

A simple and effectual method of extracting air from fruit cans has been patented.

Acquitted.
The trial of George W. Harby, an old and respected citizen of New Orleans, and a veteran teacher in the public schools for over a quarter of a century, for the killing of Chas. H. C. Stone, (a native of Virginia,) a young man of previously irreproachable character, and a junior member of one of the largest and most respectable mercantile houses of the city, took place on the 18th instant. The killing grew out of the charge that Stone had seduced the daughter of Harby, and then refused to marry her. The trial seems to have created intense excitement, and the courtroom was thronged with an anxious multitude. The defense admitted the killing, but contended that, under the circumstances, it was justifiable. The case was submitted to the jury, without argument, and in a few minutes returned a verdict of "not guilty."

The result produced a scene seldom witnessed in such a place. Cheers after cheer resounded from the building, and the rejoicing demonstrations of the judges, and vigorous exertions of the deputy sheriffs, failed to quiet the enthusiasm.

The demonstrations were renewed outside the court room, until Mr. Harby succeeded in getting away from his friends and driving off in a carriage with his daughter.

Spotylvania County Wheat, &c. &c.
The wheat crop on the "Wilderness" estate of Mr. J. H. Lacy in this county, promised a yield of 25 a 30 bushels to the acre last spring. An examination made a few days ago develops the melancholy fact that the average will scarcely exceed five bushels per acre. The seed, or blight seems to have done more injury than either of the other visitations.

Maj. Sanford Chancellor was understood to have been the first to hear of the blight, and he would have borne off the premium at the Fair of the Rappahannock Agricultural Society. We learn that the Major's wheat fields have also been seriously affected, but that he will still make a good crop.

The intimation that such a visitation from various sections in the country around—embracing adjoining and remote counties—indicates that there will not be over half an acre crop in Eastern Virginia.—*Fredricksburg Herald.*

News of the Day.

"To show the very rapid decay of the Times."

Under the warm suns of the last few days, the prospects of the crops have much improved. In the cooler latitudes, rust has been arrested; and where crops are farther advanced, the harvest has already commenced or is near at hand. The exceedingly capricious and variable weather of the last Spring, makes it impossible to describe in general terms the condition of the growing crops, with reference to the country at large. Even where observation is restricted to a single State, local circumstances produce great diversity.

Hon. J. H. Gray, of St. Johns, (N. B.) who was appointed umpire to decide cases of dispute between the British and American Commissioners for defining the fishing boundaries on the shores of the United States and the Provinces, has recently given his decision in several cases submitted to him. Mr. Gray decided in favor of the lines claimed by the British Commissioner for defining the mouths of the Beaufort and Miramichi rivers.

The Common Council of Richmond, have appropriated the sum of \$2,500 to meet the expense of entertaining the Seventh Regiment of New York, on their expected visit, as the guard of honor to the remains of Ex-President Monroe. The Regiment, we learn, will probably be quartered at the Exchange Hotel and Ballard House, and a dinner will be served for them under the fine row of lindens, near the Governor's House, on the Capitol Square.

Adams' Express Company has provided an arrangement for the convenience of visitors at all of the Virginia Springs, which will enable them to command the transfer to and from themselves of anything portable they may desire, from any part of the United States, by the quickest means of travel and the least delay. The arrangements include the charge and transfer of baggage without any trouble to the owners.

Notwithstanding the liberal offers made by the French Emperor to Prof. Agassiz, he has determined, it is now said, to remain in America. It is not true that he is going to France to take the Emperor's offer into consideration. He does not feel able to leave his engrossing studies even long enough to make a visit to his aged mother in Switzerland.

The Common Council of Louisville has established a paid fire department, consisting of three steam engines and two hand engines. The chief engineer is to receive \$1,250, assistant chief \$750, chief engineer of each steam engine \$500, the firemen, hostlers, &c., \$400; each foreman of the two hand engines, \$500; who is also to act as warden, and twenty men to each hand engine, who are to receive \$100 per annum, their services to be required only in case of fire.

At Milford (Mass.) a boy at work in one of the shoe shops in that place recently found in an old mail bag, which the proprietor of the shop had purchased to work into shoes, a letter which had been mailed at an office in Tennessee and directed to another place in the same State, and which contained four fifty dollar bills, a twenty, a ten, a five and a three—all in \$233! This firm has purchased several thousands of these worn out mail bags, and several other letters have been found in them.

They are tanning an elephant's hide at Cincinnati. It was purchased by a currier in Wisconsin, where the animal, which belonged to a menagerie, died. The freight to Cincinnati, cost \$15. It is an immense hide, so bulky that the tanners handle it with great difficulty. It is nearly two inches thick, and full a year and a half will be required to tan it thoroughly. It will be a curiosity when thoroughly tanned and seasoned.

The American Telegraph Company, owners of Hughes' Printing Telegraph instruments, have opened the first section between New York and Philadelphia, and have determined to reduce the price. The line is to be extended to New Orleans by way of the principal cities.

Judge Perkins of the supreme court of Indiana, having decided that it is constitutional to tax the people for the building of school houses, but unconstitutional to impose taxes for the support of schools, the public schools of the State have suspended operations, turning loose some thirty thousand children.

The steamship Indian Empire, daily expected at Halifax, with six days later news than the Persia, is the pioneer of a proposed line of steamers to run regularly from Galway.

The planters in the vicinity of Danville, Virginia, state that there is a most satisfactory stand of tobacco, and the prospect at present looks to a heavy crop. The crop pitched is said to be a large one.

The Texas papers contain glowing accounts of the grain crops in that State. The prospect was, that there would be the largest yield of corn ever known. The weather was favorable.

The New York Times states that a person named Young, called upon to testify in a case now progressing at the City Hall, swore "he was 36 years old, that he was born in Albany, could not read writing, had never read the Lord's Prayer, though he could read a little, and did not know what the Lord's Prayer was; that he had never read a chapter in the Bible, though he had once held the sacred volume in his hands. He had no particular occupation, gambled generally for a living, and had once bitten off a man's ear in a fight."

At the election in Warren county, Ohio, in 1856, Jesse Beckley, a colored man, offered his vote, but the judges refused to receive it, upon the ground that he was not "a citizen of the United States," according to the meaning of the act of Congress. Subsequently he sued the judges for \$1,000 damages, and a few days ago the jury gave him \$500.

A new trial, however, has been granted.—Colored men, owning a certain amount of property, are allowed to vote in Ohio.

A negro man named Daniel, in the service of Mr. Jno. D. Lively was run over by an engine on the Richmond & Fredericksburg Railroad, near Taylorsville, on Tuesday last. One of his legs was cut off and he survived but a short time.

A portion of the people of Clarke county, Va., are about to establish a society for the purpose of improving in their vicinity, fruits, vegetables and flowers, by semi-monthly exhibitions of the same, and by introducing superior varieties in each of these departments.

We learn from the Boston Journal, that Mr. Rice arrived at his home in Farnhamham, last Tuesday week, from Cuba, and was taken down with the yellow fever and died on Monday.

Marcellus Johnston, from the upper part of Hanover County, mailed rider between Fredericksburg and Beaver Dam Depot, was accidentally drowned on Tuesday last.

The Mobile papers say that General Walker and Henningsen were received there with extravagant demonstrations.

Letter from King George County.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

If not trespassing too much upon the columns of the Gazette, I would beg to add one item more to those already published relative to the Wheat crop.

As it is now near ready for the scythe, and consequently no chance for any improvement, I think it due to the consumer, as well as producer, to know what its real condition is.

You may remember the fatal results of the late hail storm which passed through Fredericksburg, and on to the mouth of the Rappahannock, destroying in its course the crops of many gentlemen. Of this we had none, but the heavy rains which fell at the same time, are supposed to have destroyed or washed from the head the blossom, producing what is termed scab, which now shows itself in more than one-half of the entire crop. What escaped this disease, the rust has taken hold of, and must necessarily reduce the crop to about two-fifths of an average one; and, indeed, it would be less, had not the prospect at the time of heading for a heavy yield been greater than for many years. I feel confident, that from my field, which must have, with a favorable season, produced two thousand bushels, there will not be reaped five hundred of good grain—none that will answer for seed.

And this reminds me of the fact that, along with short crops there must follow short prices, which is apt to teach economy in all things, and particularly in travelling. And, in 1746, Winkler, at Leipzig, and La Motte, at Paris, experimented on the same subject of the transmission of the electric current through conducting bodies. In 1747, Dr. Watson, in England, repeated and extended these experiments, sending a current through two miles of wire and two of earth, sending sparks across the Thames and the New River. Dr. Franklin, in 1748, and De Luc, in 1749, repeated many of these experiments. In addition, experiments bearing more or less on the subject of electric telegraphy, were made by Lesage in 1774, Reussner in 1794, Cavallo in 1795, Betancourt in 1798, Schumacher in 1807, and Prof. Oersted in 1819.

The first electric telegraph actually applied to service has been the invention of M. D. P. Salva. Humboldt says his telegraph was established between Madrid and Aranjuez in 1798, a distance of about twenty-six miles.

After many improvements and changes, Professor S. W. B. Morse, in the year 1835, constructed the basis of his present simple and beautiful instrument. In September, 1837, he exhibited his instrument at the New York University, working through 1,700 feet of wire.

Morse applied for a patent in the United States in April, 1838. This application was afterwards withdrawn, and his patent was not taken out until June 1840. In 1842, he patented in England, who appropriated \$30,000 to him for the construction of a line between Washington and Baltimore.

In June, 1844, Morse had his invention in successful operation between Washington and Baltimore, a distance of forty miles. This was the only line in the United States constructed under government patronage.

The House Telegraph, the invention of Royal E. House, differs from previously invented telegraphic instruments, by printing the words in the ordinary Roman letters; and this invention, with the invention of David E. Hughes, of Kentucky, is well fitted to precede the experiment of the Atlantic cable. By the latter invention the labor which electricity has to perform is reduced to a minimum, by making it necessary to use only a single electrical impulse to form a letter, whereas by previous systems several distinct impulses were necessary. With the aid of this invention we can transmit a message the distance of one continent to another, and so we have here the practical demonstration in regard to the feasibility of the Atlantic cable, the other difficulties being only mechanical.

To show the progress which has been made throughout the world in building telegraph lines, we give a summary of the existing lines in the world—

Miles.
America.....45,000
England.....10,000
France.....8,000
Germany and Austria.....5,000
Spain.....4,000
Prussia.....4,000
Russia.....5,000
The rest of Europe.....7,500
India.....6,000
Australia.....2,000
Other parts of the world.....500

Total length of telegraph lines 158,350 miles.
The number of messages passing over all lines in the United States is estimated at about 4,000,000 per annum.

Until the year 1850, the submarine cable was practically unknown. In this year the first submarine cable was laid from Dover, England, to Calais, France. The cable was twenty-four miles long, and has since been in operation, with one interruption, with complete success. Since that period the following submarine lines have been laid, and are now in operation:—

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Dover and Calais.....24 4 1851
Dover and Ostend.....7 5 1852
Hoyland and Howth.....6 1 1852
England and Holland.....115 3 1853
Port Patrick and Donaghadee.....13 6 1853
Second cable do. Northern.....13 6 1853
Italy and Corsica.....65 6 1854
Corsica and Sardinia.....10 6 1854
Denmark across the Great Belt.....15 3 1854
Denmark across the Little Belt.....5 2 1854
Denmark across the Sound.....12 3 1855
Across the Frith of Forth.....4 4 1855
Vienna and Balaclava (Greece).....340 1 1855
Balaclava and Eupatoria.....60 1 1855
Across the Danube, at Shumla.....1 1 1855
Across the Hoogli River.....23 1 1855
Messina to Reggio.....5 1 1856
Across the Gulf of St. Lawrence.....74 1 1856
Across the Strait of Bellefleur.....10 1 1856
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Across the Bosphorus, at Kandilli.....1 1 1856
Across the Gulf of Kanoo, Nova Scotia.....3 1 1856
Six cables across the mouth of the St. Lawrence, from the Lake of the Saguenay, each one mile long, and having one conductor.....6 6 1857
Across the Mississippi, at Paducah.....1 1 1854
From Petersburg to Cronstadt.....10 1 1856
Across the St. Lawrence, at Quebec.....1 1 1856
Across the Strait of Bellefleur (England).....3 4 1855
Small river crossing.....20 1 1855

Total length submarine cables 950 miles.
Taking the security of submarine cables when properly laid, into account, they are preferable on long routes to the ordinary line, except when through a country party daily harassed by the enemy, but not beyond the limit of good dividends. It is estimated that a telegraph could be put round the world at a cost in round numbers of five hundred dollars a mile, or twelve and a half millions of dollars for the whole; which is about one-third of the cost of the Erie Railroad. It is, therefore, obvious that the Atlantic cable will be ere long but one division of the electric band that shall gird the globe.—*N. Y. Courier and Enquirer.*

Corporation of Fredericksburg.
The total indebtedness of the Corporation, on the 1st of March, 1858, is put at \$248,400. Among the items that swelled the debt originally, the following may be named:—
For the Water Power Company, \$140,000
For the Plank Road, 30,000
For the Canal (Hazel River), 10,000
For the Court House, (about), 15,000
For the Railroad, 75,000

—*Fred. Herald.* \$272,500

History of the Telegraph.

It is not inappropriate to give at this time a brief summary of the history of the telegraph, that upon the progress made and the results obtained in the few years since its discovery, we may find our anticipations for the future of the telegraph.

In the year 1684, Dr. Hooke invented a plan for an aerial telegraph, which was followed by the experiments of M. Amontons for the same end. However, neither of these plans were carried into effect and it was not until 1744 that the telegraph was actually used. In that year an aerial telegraph, the invention of M. Claude Chappe, was employed for the transmission of intelligence between Paris and Lille; the conveyance of a signal from one of these places to the other occupying only two minutes. Semaphores were soon in use throughout Europe—in England in 1793; Denmark in 1802; Prussia in 1823; and Austria about 1833; and Russia in 1839.

The cost of working the aerial telegraph was very great. The line above mentioned cost \$7,500 per annum, and a similar line between London and Portsmouth cost about \$10,000 per annum. These telegraphs were necessarily imperfect, exceedingly slow, and liable to total interruption by storms and fogs.

The idea of the employment of electricity as a means of conveying intelligence to a distance, appears to have been long entertained, and experiments to ascertain the practicability of electrical communication between distant places, were early made by scientific men throughout the civilized world.

In 1729, Gray and Wheeler discovered that a current of electricity could be made to flow through a considerable length of wire. In 1746, Winkler, at Leipzig, and La Motte, at Paris, experimented on the same subject of the transmission of the electric current through conducting bodies. In 1747, Dr. Watson, in England, repeated and extended these experiments, sending a current through two miles of wire and two of earth, sending sparks across the Thames and the New River. Dr. Franklin, in 1748, and De Luc, in 1749, repeated many of these experiments. In addition, experiments bearing more or less on the subject of electric telegraphy, were made by Lesage in 1774, Reussner in 1794, Cavallo in 1795, Betancourt in 1798, Schumacher in 1807, and Prof. Oersted in 1819.

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Government Receipts and Expenditures.
The current fiscal year of our government expires on the 30th inst. Estimating the receipts of the last quarter at \$8,000,000, which it will not exceed, the revenue and expenditures of the government for the year will stand thus:

For three quarters.....\$36,024,933.16
Fourth estimated.....8,000,000.00
Total.....\$44,024,933.16
Expenditures, as estimated by J. G. Grier.....\$44,667,265.30
Deficit for the year.....\$642,332.14

A deficit of forty millions in one year ought to indicate the necessity of such a change as will restore national finances to a better condition.

REWARD.—Runaway from the subscriber, on Saturday, 19th inst., a negro woman named HANNAH, aged about 22 years, very black, no particular mark or peculiarity. She carried a copper color, and quite likely. She was hired from Mr. McVeigh, of Loudoun County, and had my permission to come to the city, where she has been seen once or twice since. I will give the above reward for her apprehension.

H. F. MILLAN.
Fairfax county, Va. 28—603

Letters from Liberia.

Letters have been received at the office of the American Colonization Society, from Liberia, to the 19th of April. The following extracts from letters of Dr. Snowden, dated at the interior settlement, Careyburg, March 25th, will be interesting to our readers:

"Up to this date the emigrants are well and doing well. Three or four of them have had slight indisposition. None have had a decided attack of African fever. Six of them have nearly completed their houses, and others are under way. Their towns and farm lots are for the most part cleared off and planted, and some are even yielding. This company of emigrants have been here now three months. The first